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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose spirit is known by those with thankful hearts and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift the hearts of our Senators to a joyous confidence in Your care. Teach them to know that a shadow is only a shadow because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the objects of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach our Senators to find it. Help them to trust it and grow in its power. Lord, may their lives present a cheerful ray to our Nation and world. Let the light of exemplary leadership illuminate the dark road ahead.

We ask in the name of Him whose life was the light of the world. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 6, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, if any, we will resume consideration of H.R. 1105, the appropriations bill. The floor is open for debate and amendment. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session. I have spoken to the Republican leader and assistant leader. We expect to have a finite list of amendments that will be entered into the RECORD within the next hour.

I know it is very difficult for people to understand the Senate sometimes. For those of us who have served in this body for an extended period, it is even difficult sometimes for us. But it is a wonderful institution that has a long list of precedents building up since we became a country. The Founding Fathers, when they wrote the Constitution, wanted a unique legislative system, and they gave us one. The House of Representatives is elected every 2 years. No one has ever been appointed to serve in the House of Representatives. If someone resigns or dies, there is a new election. In the Senate, that is not the case. There are 6-year terms and 2-year terms. The House runs every 2 years. Their ears are in tune with the constituency like no one else. We are, some say, the saucer that cools the coffee. Sometimes we cool it for a long period. But that is the rules. An individual Senator has tremendous power. This isn't anything new. This is the

way it has always been. I want everyone to recognize that the Senate is an institution that works on comity. We have to work together.

We are proceeding forward on this large spending bill to make up work that we had not completed the last several years. We thought we were going to finish last night. A significant number of Republicans wanted more amendments. As a result, a number of my Republican friends called me and said: We think we need more amendments. We know we said we were going to vote to end debate, but we believe there should be more debate. I wish I had not received those phone calls, but I understand how the Senate works. No one broke their word to me. It was a misunderstanding only.

We are where we are. I have spoken to the Republican leadership, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator KYL. Within the next little bit we will have a finite list of amendments. We will work our way through those. It is my understanding Senator MCCAIN is going to be here today to offer an amendment. There are a number of other Senators who are going to offer amendments. We will work through these.

It is my understanding that the House is going to, within an hour or so, do a CR that will take us through Wednesday. I will work with the Republican leader. I will probably file cloture today to make sure we have some instrument to move forward on. We can arrange the time whenever we want. The reason we will go that way, it was set up last night procedurally that if there were 60 votes on cloture, there would automatically be a third reading of the underlying bill. That is what we will do again so there is no need to have two separate votes. We will do our best to give everyone ample time as to when this vote will take place, the reason being, Senator KENNEDY is back now. We were happy to see him yesterday. He looks great. He was at the White House for a health conference.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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